

The  
Indiana  
Historical  
Radio Society

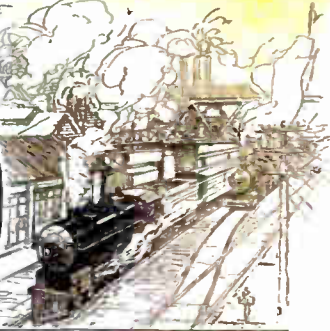
# BULLETIN

Volume 46

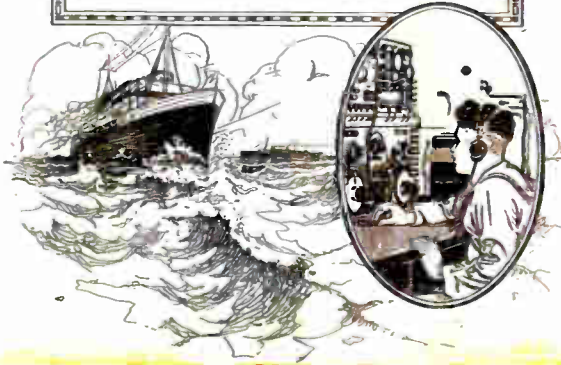
December 2017

Number 4

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*Win Your Way  
With Wire or  
Wireless*



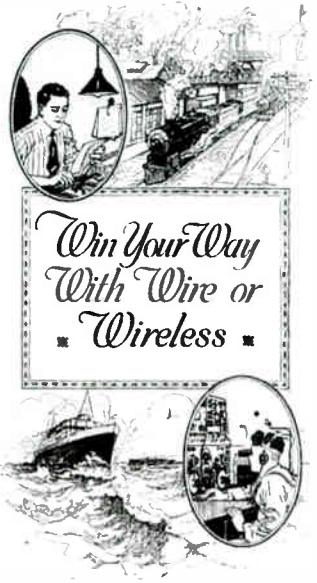
The BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY.  
CELEBRATING FORTY-SIX YEARS OF DOCUMENTING EARLY RADIO

# The Indiana Historical Radio Society Bulletin

## *On the cover of this issue of the Bulletin:*

"Win Your Way With Wireless" is the 1929 catalog title for Dodge's Telegraph, Railway Accounting and Radio (Wireless) Institute, Valparaiso, Indiana. In his introduction to his 1911 book "The Telegraph Instructor", George M. Dodge states: "My experience in the telegraph field began in the year 1887 when I entered the railroad telegraph service of the Pennsylvania Lines at a small station in Indiana." . . . In 1891 I began to train young men and women in practical telegraph work," The Dodge school grew from railroad telegraphy and accounting to including course work in Wireless Telegraphy in 1910. By 1929 the Wireless (Radio) training was a significant draw to the school.



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## *In this issue:*

On Saturday March 10th the Indiana Historical Radio Society will return to the Lawrence Park Community Center (page 3). We expect with this second week in March date the weather will be great!

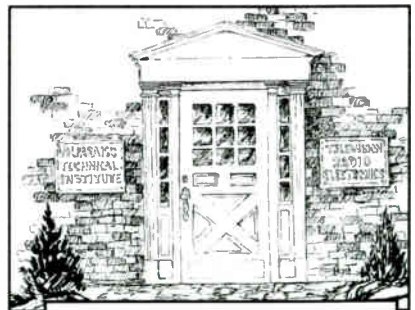
Recoring Crosley Audio Transformers, page 4, is Bob Pote's contribution to this issue of the Bulletin.

On page 8, Ed Dupart tells of his restoration of a rarely seen Whelco A-11 1939 tube table radio.

A pictorial review of Greenfield, 2017 is provided on pages 14 -17.

Page 18, Win Your Way With Wireless, written by Fred Prohl, briefly covers the lengthy history of Valpo Tech.

Perhaps you've missed the IHRS Bulletin's RadioAd page? Send your RadioAd to the editor for publication in the next Bulletin.



From the 1952-53 Valparaiso Technical Institute catalog title page.

# IHRS 2018 Winter Meet

**IHRS Winter Meeting – Lawrence Park Community Center,  
Lawrence, Indiana - Saturday March 10, 2018  
Meet at the Lawrence Park Community Center,  
5301 N Franklin Road, Lawrence (North East Indianapolis)**

The Lawrence Park Community Center is located just outside the North East segment of I465, Indianapolis. Exit I465 at 56<sup>th</sup> Street East or Pendleton Pike (US36) East. From 56<sup>th</sup> Street turn South on Franklin Road to the Community Center – From Pendleton Pike turn North to the Community Center.

The IHRS Winter Meet is a **Swap N Sell indoor meet**. The doors to the Center will open at 7:00 AM for setup and Swap N Sell.

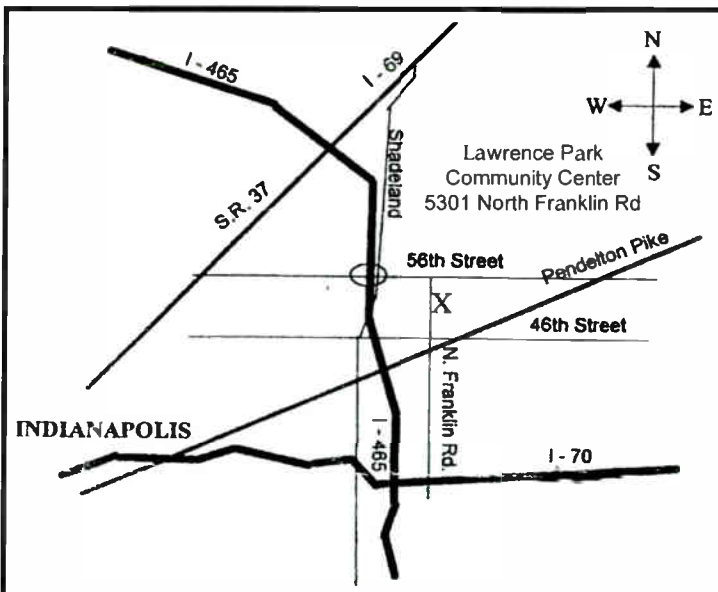
**Old Equipment “Popular Vote” Contest** is open to all entries of vintage radio and radio related equipment. Tables for the display of vintage/unique electronic equipment will be available.

CONTEST CATEGORIES:

1. 1930's Radio
2. Open to all Radios

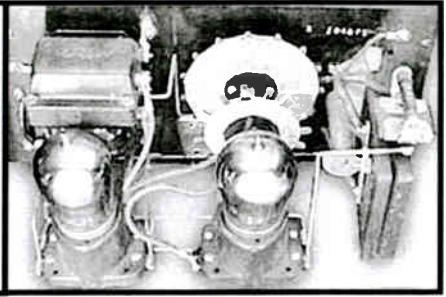
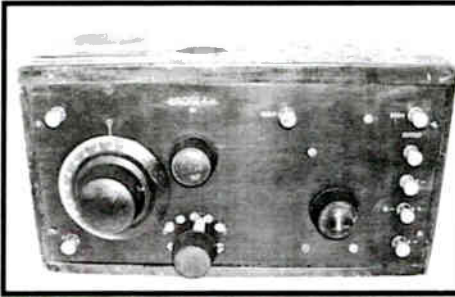
**Registration fees:** Admission to the Vintage Radio Meet is free. Swap table rental: IHRS members - \$10.00 for each table; non-IHRS members – \$15.00 for each table. Tables are rectangular.

Meet contacts: Fred Prohl, 317-736-1228 and Ed Taylor, 317-638-1641



# Recoring Early Crosley Audio Transformers

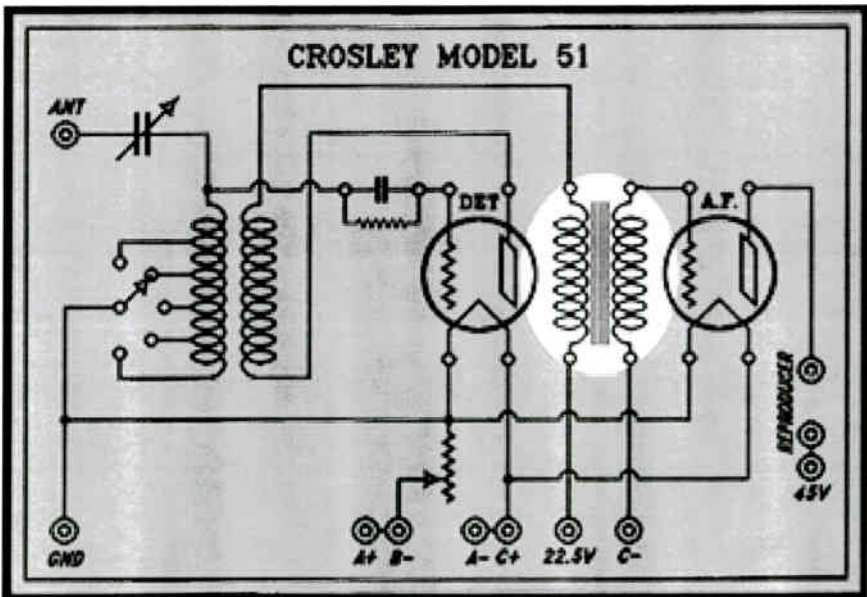
## "A Study In Patience" by Bob Pote



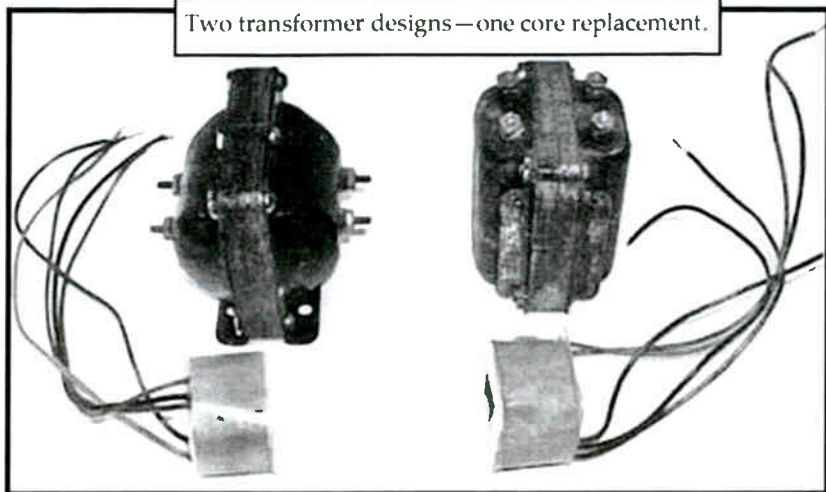
Having thirty-nine early Crosley battery sets in my collection has given me some experience in their operation, circuitry and most common problems encountered when restoring one. The early Crosleys are fairly simple in design with their main weaknesses being their tube socket and audio transformers. Of all my Crosleys only four or five had good transformers. The rest being defective

when checking them using an ohmmeter. In this article I will address the transformers and leave the tube sockets to someone else.

With new old stock transformers being unavailable and wishing to keep the appearance of the radio stock, I have undertaken the task of recoring my transformers and explaining the procedure that has worked for me.



Two transformer designs—one core replacement.



Before starting please note that Crosley used two different transformers, but the recoring procedure is the same for both.

For this application I am using cores that I purchased from Antique Electronic Supply. The transformers are supplied with five leads. The red and blue wires are the primary and the green, black, and green are the secondary. The black wire is a center tap and is not needed. I just snip it off close to the winding.

After checking over the new transformer core we are ready to get started. Disassemble the transformer taking care to save all the screws and nuts. When the transformer is apart, snip the wires going to the old core, then

use a small screw driver and gently pry the hard rubber insulators out of each transformer shell. Be careful and don't use any force as they break quite easily. After their removal you can set them aside and paint them if you wish. I use flat black paint.

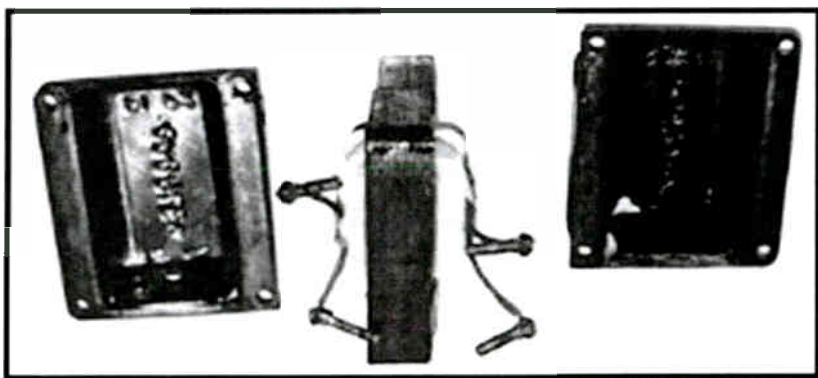
Next is to slide the old core off of the tangs on the transformer plate stack. With that done, check each half of the transformer plate stack. They usually are riveted together. If so, you will need to



get out your Dremel MotoTool and grind off the heads from both stacks in order to slide the new core on to the tangs of the transformer stack. If you buff the tangs the core will slide on much easier.

After I slide the core over both tangs of the plate stacks I make sure that it is centered. Then I mix up a little epoxy glue and apply it to the top and bottom of the core to insure that it doesn't move when the transformer is put back together.

Now we are ready to solder the terminal leads to the terminal screws. I take the core assembly and cut off the excess wire on each terminal lead leaving at least 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" lead length on each wire, dress each lead back ¼" and then tin each lead with your soldering iron. Then take each terminal screw and thread on a nut. Then using a small pair of vise-grips, clamp the nut end in the vise-grips. Heat the screw end and use your wire brush and clean off the old solder and any remnants of old wire.



While I am waiting for the epoxy to dry on the core assembly, I take the two rubber insulators and wire brush them gently, then apply a little glue and press them back into the holes in the transformer shells. The glue will keep them in place and make it easier when inserting the terminal screws and associated wire.

Then orient the screw head so that the slot in the head is parallel to the vise-grips. Now take one of the tinned terminal leads and lightly bend it so it lays in the slot of the screw head. Apply a drop of solder, being careful not to overdo the solder. Then do the other three leads the same way. It is very important to apply just a small amount of solder as these screws

must go into the holes in the rubber insulators – and you don't want to force them.

Now after checking over my soldering skills or lack of, the transformer is ready to be reassembled. Remember that the red and blue wires are the primary and the two green wires are the secondary and the black wire is snipped off. Also the outsides of the transformer shells are stamped P1, P2 and S1, S2. To aid in orientating the wires when inserting the screws make sure that the wire soldered to the screw head nestles in the slot of the insulator. When you tighten the screw down it should bottom out and not turn if installed correctly. After all the terminal screws are inserted and tightened down, wrestle the wire around in order to screw the two halves together. When all is done and the transformer is screwed together, I always check my work using my ohmmeter. The primary side should show 400 ohms and the secondary side should show 1500 ohms. I have done twelve of my sets using this procedure and have had good results.

Source of transformer cores: Antique Radio Inc. – website: [www.ARBCCiii.com](http://www.ARBCCiii.com) He carries cores with three different size openings. He also has drop in transformers to fit Atwater Kent cylinder type audio transformers. Antique Electronic Supply – web-

site: [www.tubesandmore.com](http://www.tubesandmore.com) Replacement core part no. P-T431. Cost \$14.75.

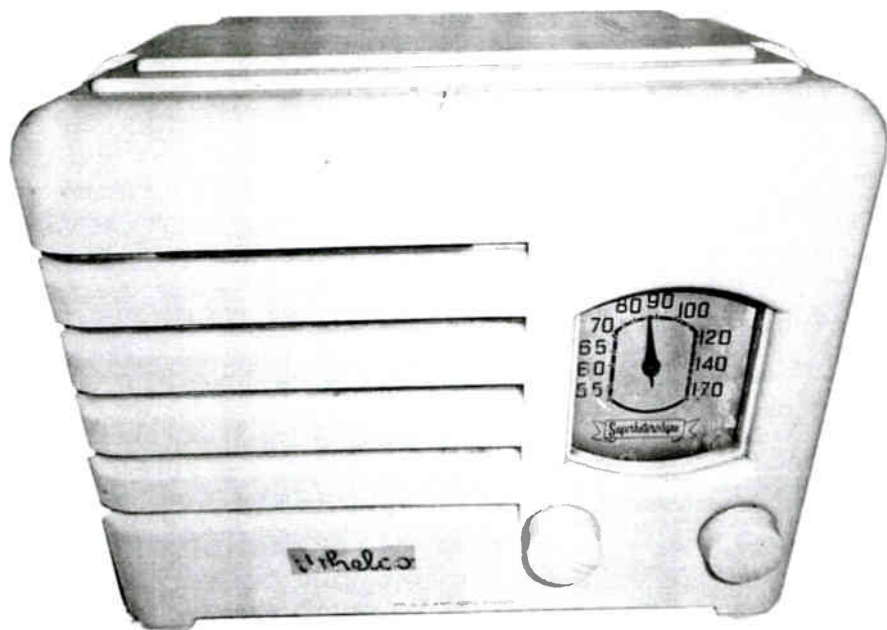
I have repaired four Atwater Kent radios using the drop in transformers from "Antique Radio Inc." and have had good results with their transformer. I have had good success putting the AK transformer in the freezer overnight. Then using an ice pick and hammer I chip the old tar from the transformer can. I think that this method is vastly superior to heating the transformers and melting the old tar. When I install a drop in transformer I bend the mounting cans to make a snug fit in the can, pack some paper in the can to take up some space, then mix up some Bondo Body Filler and pour it into the can, making sure that

**"I have repaired four Atwater Kent radios using the drop in transformers from Antique Radio Inc. and have had good results with their transformer."**

the wires are protected from the body filler. I wrap tape around the wires and paint the transformer to match the particular AK radio. Works for me!

*Bob Pote, November 2017*

## Whelco A-11, 1939 by Edward Dupart



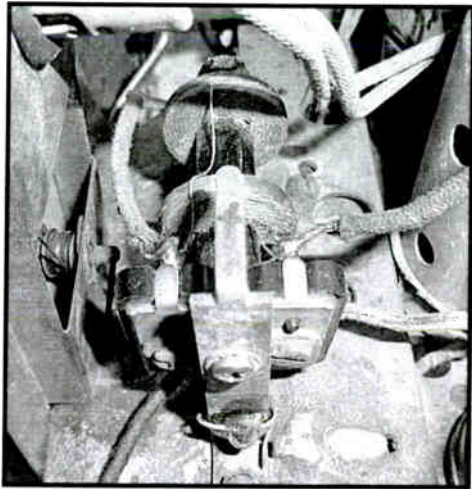
A friend of mine was having difficulty with this Whelco radio from 1939 and wanted me to look at it and I agreed. I never heard of a Whelco radio before so I did some research and I couldn't find any information, so I asked a friend of mine, Kerry, to see what he could dig up. He discovered Wells Gardner made it for the Whelan Drug store in Chicago, Illinois. I looked up a Wells Gardner A-11 and the schematic and the pictorial matched perfectly. Then I went to the Radio Attic Archives and looked up the Whelco and the Wells Gardner A-11 and both used the same cabinet. The Whelco radio used a different dial

and had a Whelco decal on the lower front of the cabinet, otherwise the radios are identical except the one I have is ivory and the ones in Radio Attic Archives are brown. Mystery solved!

Now to see what's wrong with the radio. The owner had started replacing capacitors and since he is new working on radios and soldering I had to do a little straightening up and so I remounted the filter capacitors. After that I felt comfortable enough to apply power to this set, which by the way is only a 4 tube set with a tube style ballast resistor and so this set has no IF amplifier. I thought it strange to put such a cheap set into such a



nice cabinet, but that's what they did. I fired it up and I could tell the audio stage was working, but all I got was a hiss at the lower end of the band with no stations coming in. I did the usual voltage checks and I found the primary of the one and only IF transformer to be open. Removing the IF transformer was easy and what I discovered was that one of the primary wires that went to the coil had broken off. I was able to unwind a little bit of the



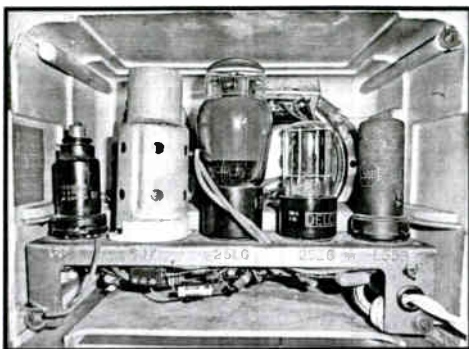
primary and solder back onto it, but it still measured open and that's when I knew the open was deep down inside the coil. It looked like a standard IF transformer except the secondary trimmers bottom end goes directly to ground rather than across the secondary and it wasn't inside the typical aluminum housing. I had a junk radio nearby and scavenged the first IF

transformer out of it. I was about to encounter a new learning experience.

The IF transformer was easy to replace and after I replaced it I plugged it in. It still had the same hiss at the bottom end of the dial and no stations, which led me to believe the local oscillator was not functioning. Out came the RF generator and with that I found the IF to be working and was able to align the IF transformer which didn't take much. Injecting an RF signal in the oscillator circuit and tuning the RF generator 455KC above the incoming signal of a very strong local station, allowed that station to come through very nicely, which verified the oscillator was indeed not functioning. Measuring the resistance of the antenna and oscillator coil agreed with the schematic, so it looked like the coils were OK. Next I checked the resistance of the cathode resistor in the mixer tube, 6J7, and the 12k measured 30k, so I replaced that and it still didn't work. Out came the resistance substitution box and I put that in parallel with the cathode resistor and seeing if pushing more current through the tube would get it to oscillate and that worked. Finally, I'm picking up a station! I found if I used a 1500 ohm resistor the bottom end worked quite well, but the upper end would lose sensitivity, if I increased it to 10k the

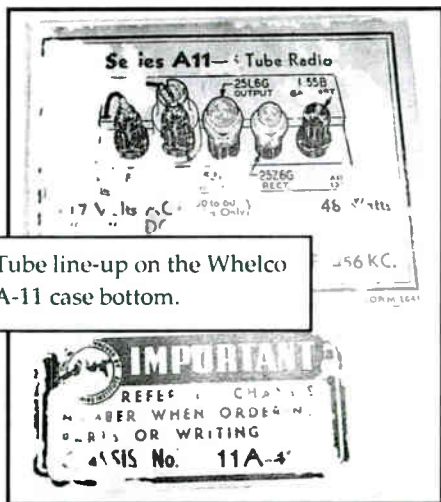
## Welco A-11 Table Radio—continued

bottom end would cut out, but the top end worked great. Now my learning experience hits me and I decided to look at the resistance of the original IF transformer and compare that to the replacement and I discovered quite a difference. The original transformer has a primary resistance of 3.6 ohms and the secondary resistance is 5.2 ohms, far lower than the approximately 30 ohms for both primary and secondary windings of the replacement transformer. Checking another IF transformer yielded the same 20-30 ohm resistance. The original transformer would allow more current to pass through the mixer tube and so lowering the cathode resistor, and I settled on a 4.7k resistor, would allow more plate current to flow and would make up for the higher resistance of the replacement transformer. Also, readjusting the primary trim-

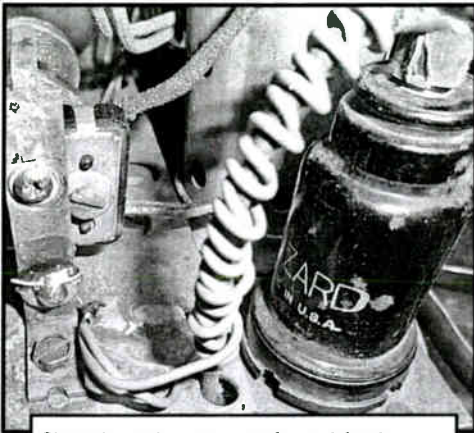


mer on the IF transformer effected the oscillator and that made it oscillate equally across the dial, which made stations come in equally well across the dial. Finally, the radio works great.

A note on tube shields and other shields in general. Manufacturers put shields in place for a reason, usually to stop oscillation. In some early AC sets I have found the radio will oscillate so hard that the set appears to be dead without the shields. Put the shields in place and the radio works great. I was experimenting and I wanted to see how this Welco radio worked without the tube shield. Without it, it was picking up an AC 60cps hum and was very annoying with the volume at low levels and was coming from the pilot light wires running near the 2<sup>nd</sup> detector 6J7. Those wires were injecting the 60cps into the 6J7. Both the glass 6J7's were replaced with metal ones and I would have thought the metal housing would have stopped it, but it didn't. I placed

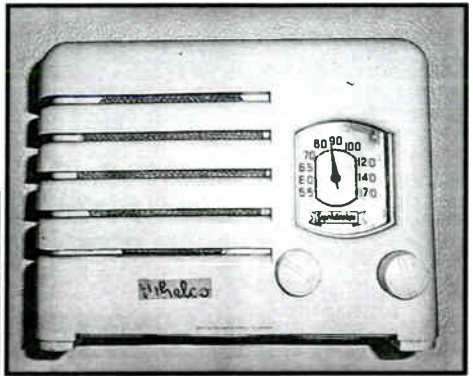


the tube shield over the metal 6J7 and the hum stopped completely. Amazing! Another problem arose when I hooked a long wire antenna to it and the strong local station was coming in loud and clear with the volume control all the way down. The long wire antenna lead in radiated into the antenna coil and the grid lead to the mixer tube. I wrapped a solid #26 insulated wire around the grid wire and grounded the new shielding wire and that helped immensely. Keep in mind, shielding is important.



Shielding the mixer tube grid wire.

To finish it up, I had to replace a couple more capacitors and several wires with crumbling rubber insulation. The dial pointer was crooked, so a little straightening took care of that. I went through and realigned all the trimmers and now with just my body as an antenna I picked up Canada, Nashville, Cincinnati and the list goes on. Not bad for a radio with no IF stage.



What I learned is to check the DC resistance of replacement IF transformers. Fortunately, with a little engineering I was able to make a common transformer work in this cheap radio with a nice cabinet.

*Edward Dupart, November 26, 2017*

### We Remember:

Paula Whitaker, wife of IHRS President Alex Whitaker, passed away on January 4, 2018. We remember Paula for her help at IHRS Kokomo meets with the Old Equipment auction and food service support.

# - Vintage Radio -

## **Indiana Historical Radio Society (IHRS)**

Meets four times a year at central Indiana locations.

Publishes a quarterly "Bulletin"

contact: [inistradio@gmail.com](mailto:inistradio@gmail.com)

fb: Indiana Historical Radio Society web: [indianahistoricalradio.org](http://indianahistoricalradio.org)

## **Antique Radio Club of Illinois (ARCI)**

Meets six times a year in the Chicago area

with RadioFest as a two day event

Issues an on line bi monthly "ARCI News"

fb: antique radio club Illinois web: [antique-radios.org](http://antique-radios.org)

## **Michigan Antique Radio Club (MARC)**

Two large vintage electronics meets, Winter and Summer

Publishes the Quarterly MARC Chronicle

fb: Michigan antique radio club web: [michiganantiqueradio.org](http://michiganantiqueradio.org)

## **Kentucky: Mid-South Antique Radio Collectors (MSARC)**

Hosts Spring and Fall Meets in Lexington or Louisville

Contact: [layvinradio@twc.com](mailto:layvinradio@twc.com)

email [jmiller981@aol.com](mailto:jmiller981@aol.com) to be added to mailing list

fb: Mid South Antique Radio Collectors

## **Ohio: Cincinnati Antique Radio Society (CARS)**

Hosts annual "Radorama" each June

Meets on 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30PM.

Contact: [info@cincinnati-antique-radio.org](mailto:info@cincinnati-antique-radio.org)

web: [Cincinnati-antique-radio.org](http://Cincinnati-antique-radio.org) fb: Cincinnati Antique Radio Society

## **Central Ohio Antique Radio Association (COARA)**

Hosts two Saturday meets per year

Meets quarterly on 3rd Wednesday — Mar, Jun, Sep, and Dec

fb: COARA Central Ohio Antique Radio Association web: [coara.org](http://coara.org)

## **Tennessee - Music City Vintage Radio Club**

Monthly meeting and three annual meets in Nashville.

fb: Music City Vintage Radio Club web: [musiccityvintageradio.org](http://musiccityvintageradio.org)

## **Pittsburg Antique Radio Society (PARS)**

Eight events scheduled for 2018

Publishes the quarterly "Oscillator"

web: [pittantiqueradios.org](http://pittantiqueradios.org)

## **AWA-Antique Wireless Association**

[www.antiquewireless.org](http://www.antiquewireless.org)

Contributed by Jeremy  
Schotter & Fred Prohl

# 2018—VINTAGE RADIO ACTIVITY—2018

## Indiana Historical Radio Society—Swap Meet

[indianahistoricalradio.org](http://indianahistoricalradio.org)

March 10, Lawrence Park Community Center, Lawrence, IN

May XXXX, Kokomo Shrine Club, Kokomo, IN

August 11, Cool Creek Park, Carmel, IN

October 13, Riley Park Community Center, Greenfield, IN

## Antique Radio Club of Illinois

[antique-radios.org](http://antique-radios.org)

Swap Meet—February 25, American Legion Hall, Carol Stream, IL

August 24 and 25, RADIOFEST, Medinah Shrine Club, Addison, IL

## Michigan Antique Radio Club—Vintage Electronics Expo

[michiganantiqueradio.org](http://michiganantiqueradio.org)

January 27, Vintage Electronic Expo, Costick Center, Farmington Hills, MI

## Pittsburg Antique Radio Society

[pittantiqueradios.org](http://pittantiqueradios.org)

April 22—Tri State RadioFest, Center Stage Banquet Hall, Monaca, PA

If the date on your mailing envelope for this issue of the Indiana Historical Radio Society Bulletin is 12/17 or earlier, it is time to renew your membership. Make your check payable to the *Indiana Historical Radio Society* in the amount of \$15.00 per year and send to: **Don Yost, IHRS, 3814 E 400 N, Windfall, IN 46076**. Include your current mailing address, if not on your check, and your email address, if you

*Renew your Indiana  
Historical Radio  
Society membership  
NOW! (thanks)*



# Popular Vote Contest, Greenfield, October, 2017

Contest pictures taken by Ed Dupart and Fred Prohl



FM Receivers:  
Bill Smith (2nd "Sarkes Tarzian")  
and Ed Dupart (1st, "Weird Radio")



A Steinitz Table radio  
entered by Fred Prohl



A Philco table radio with  
packing box submitted by  
Randy Frasure



Search 'Radio Craft Moham-  
med Ulyssus Fips' on the  
internet for additional details.

George Clemans shows off his collection of the various APR-1 tubes specifically designed for the Superhetero-ultradyne seven tube vest pocket radio. Included in his display is a May 1933 Radio Craft article written by M. Ulyssus Fips describing the revolutionary receiver developed for the Westinghouse Radio and Mfg. Company. George provided additional clarification of the display by including a copy of his article in the March 1987 IHRS Bulletin.



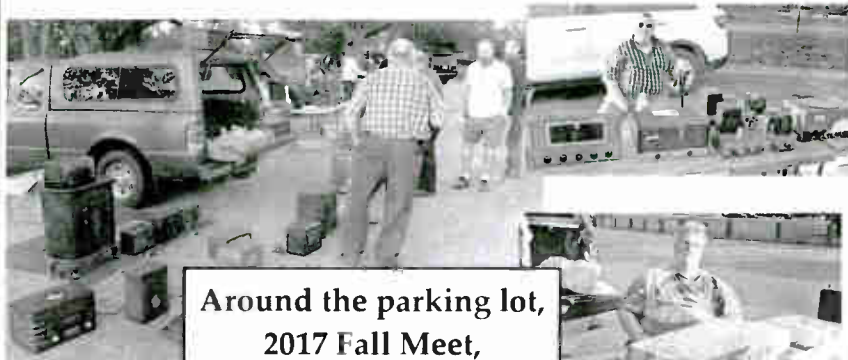
Collection of radios with a Reflex circuit submitted by Ed Dupart



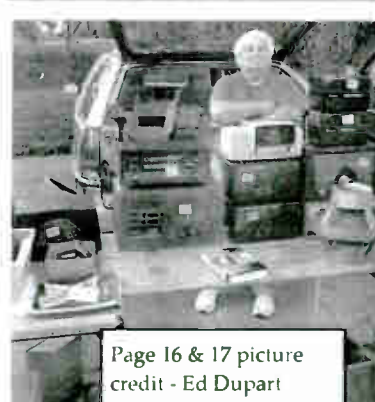
Edna Clemans presented a display of radio related cooking/ kitchen memorabilia.



On display—Michael Feldt's prize winning Leutz C-7 with a loop antenna and Orchestrion horn speaker.



**Around the parking lot,  
2017 Fall Meet,  
Greenfield**



Page 16 & 17 picture  
credit - Ed Dupart



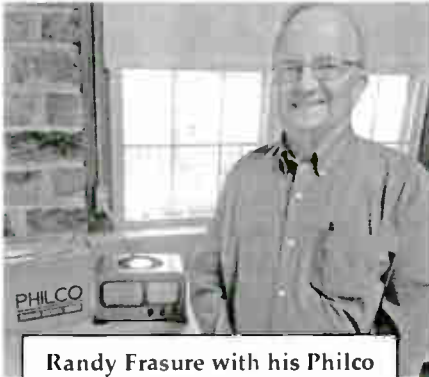
## Indoors at Greenfield 2017



Don Yost, on duty at the registration table.



Ed Dupart with a couple samples of his Reflex Circuit display.



Randy Frasure with his Philco "Popular Vote" contest radio.



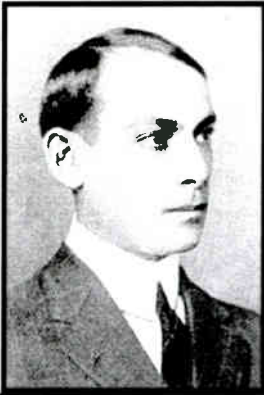
Right: George Clemans with his "Rare" Breadbox Radio.



The 11 o'clock pitch-in lunch—always enjoyed!

## Win Your Way With Wire or Wireless—1929 by Fred Prohl

In October of 1915, M. E. Packman, an instructor/representative from the Dodge's Institute of Telegraphy, presented a paper before The Institute of Radio Engineers in New York. The object of his paper was to outline the school's course in "Radio Telegraphy".



**Morris E. Packman**  
Vice President, Dodge's Radio  
Institute—1929 catalog

As a lead in to his topic, Mr. Packman described the current conditions, as he sees them, of radio operators and the training of radio operators:

"It seems, however, that if the question of training and selection of operators for radio service were handled in a manner more in accord with that followed railroads, the deplorable condition that exists in some land and ship stations would be greatly improved."

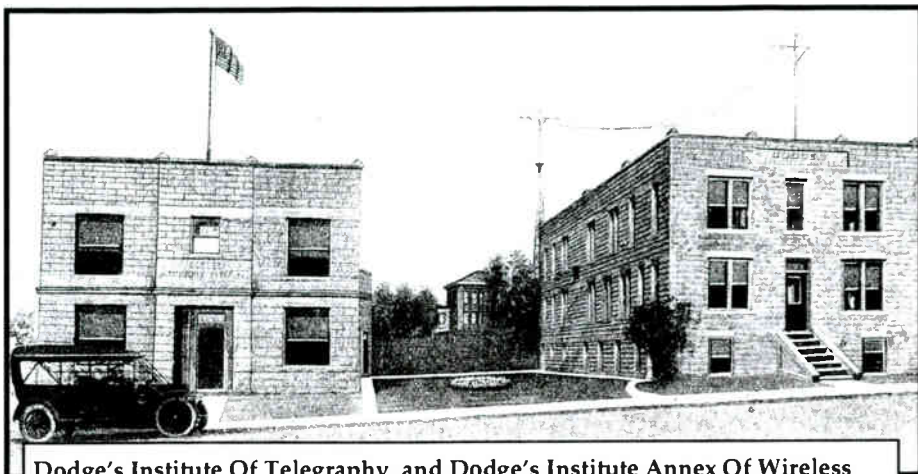
And

"Some of these men cannot send, some cannot receive, some of them cannot adjust a detector, and some cannot tune."

Mr. Packman then described the course of study for the Radio School in detail, referencing the current conditions, at land stations and shipboard stations, to justify each feature of instruction. In a summary of his presentation, Mr. Packman described the School's Technical Division where the course material included instruction in the elementary principles of electricity and magnetism and the study of dynamo-electric machinery. "Inductance, mutual inductance, capacity, wave length and frequency are studied, together with methods for their predetermination by calculation." "Different types of commercial receiver and crystal detectors are tested."

In the Operation Division of the school, "Students are taught to receive on buzzer-excited circuits, using head band telephone receivers. A number of circuits of gradually increasing speed and difficulty are provided. Different tones and intensities of signals are provided to accustom the student to actual conditions." . . . "Artificial interference is provided to teach reading of desired message thru such interference."

The school also had a Traffic Divi-



Dodge's Institute Of Telegraphy, and Dodge's Institute Annex Of Wireless and Railway Instruction. (page 288, *The Telegraph Instructor*, 1911 5th ed.)

sion where radio law and international regulations were taught. A simple, but a no argument's statement, "Work in penmanship is obligatory" is placed at the end of the Traffic Division summary.

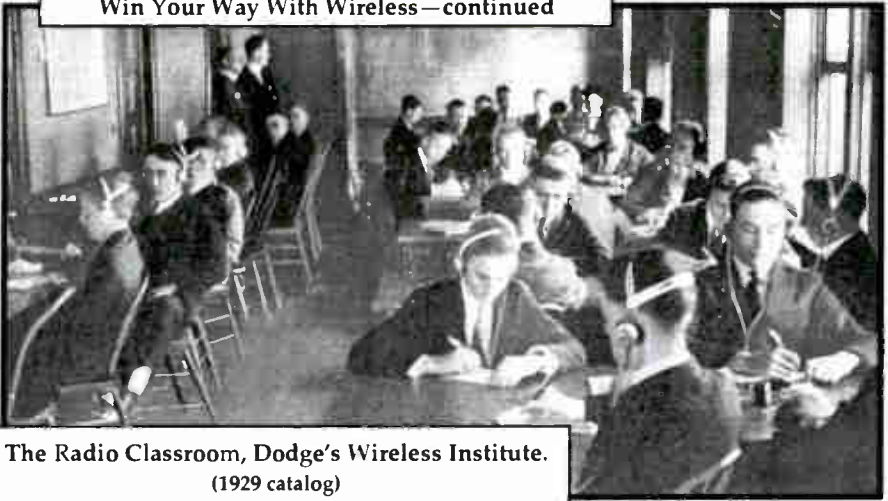
Perhaps the most rewarding occasion of a student's experience at the Dodge Institute of Wireless Telegraphy is when the wireless receiving equipment was issued: "After a student who had enrolled in the radio course had progressed to the point where he could receive eighteen to twenty words per minute from a sounder, he was transferred to the radio code work. All such students were supplied with practice sets including a single slide tuning coil, detector, fixed condenser, head telephone receiver, and sufficient aluminum wire to construct an indoor antenna, as well as a key and buzzer

mounted on a base board." . . . "Students, supplied with the small receiving sets which they had installed in their rooms, were supposed to spend the afternoon in copying these signals." (The signals were sent from the school's radio station.)

Mr. Packman's presentation to the Institute of Radio Engineers is 31 pages in length. It can be located at [books.google.com](http://books.google.com) Search for "Proceedings of The Institute of Radio Engineers Volume 3 1915". The paper/presentation begins on page 311.

It was the practice of the IRE to provide a discussion of each paper following the presentation. The discussion that followed Mr. Packman's "The Training of the Radio Operator" is interesting for two reasons. First, the responses to the paper were written by sev-

Win Your Way With Wireless—continued

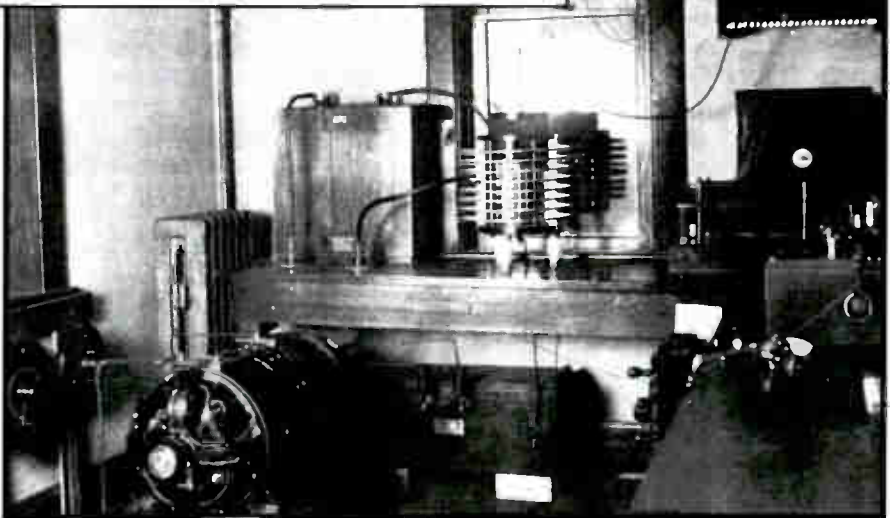


The Radio Classroom, Dodge's Wireless Institute.  
(1929 catalog)

eral noted figures in the development of early Wireless and Radio; kind of the "Who's Who" in radio: *Elmer E. Bucher*, author of several Wireless books, such as "Vacuum Tubes in Wireless Communication" and "How to Conduct a Radio Club"

*Alfred N. Goldsmith*, author of "Radio Telephony" and "Director of the Radio Telegraphic and Telephonic Laboratory"; *David Sarnoff*, sometimes referred as the "Father of Radio", Sarnoff led RCA for most of the corporation's profitable years.

"Our Marconi Wireless Station"  
Dodge's Wireless Institute. (1929 catalog)



A fourth response was given by *John L. Hogan*. As a young man, John Hogan worked as an assistant to Lee deForest, earned honors in physics and mathematics at Yale. Hogan became President of the IRE in 1920. He authored "The Outline of Radio" in 1924.

And a second interesting observation drawn from the feedback regarding Mr. Packman's paper on the school; all four responses objected to Packman's description of conditions of the wireless operator as "Deplorable" and his conclusion that training was part of the problem. A common thread of opinion in the feedback regarding the Dodge Radio School is shown in David Sarnoff's response: "As regarding commercial radio schools versus radio telegraph company-owned schools: It is preferable, of course, where a student can do so, to take up his course of training in a school of a large radio organization, because such a school is conducted with the objective of training the men for the company's service and not for the profit derived from tuition fees." He then acknowledges that for many prospective students locations like Valparaiso may be more feasible than a distant Marconi School. (Marconi School had an agreement to assist the Dodge Institute in the

training of operators.)

Alfred Goldsmith: ". . . it seems to me that it would be well to give the students in radio operating some courses in reading messages thru atmospheric disturbances."

John Hogan wrote a positive response to the Dodge Radio School's emphasis on penmanship: "It has been my experience that the "copy" of radio operators is as a rule much poorer than that of wire telegraphers." But then he takes issue with use of the buzzer solely

for training: ". . . radio operators in a commercial telegraph school should be trained to copy signals thru static interference strays." He describes the total confusion of "trained" operators when presented with transmitted signals affected by atmospheric conditions.

And Elmer Bucher had this to say: "In general, corporation-owned schools have the advantage over privately owned schools in that the former are in possession of a more complete radio equipment and are thus enabled to offer their pupils a more comprehensive course than is other-wise possible."

Mr. Packman may have taken some heat with his IRE presentation, but documents show he was respected by his students.



In the 1986 September issue of the IHRS Bulletin, George and Edna Clemans provided an article titled "**The Poet Of Valpo Tech**". George and Edna discovered a 1912 publication titled "A Treatise Upon Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony, written by C. J. Hoppough, Dean of the Department of Wireless Telegraphy at Dodge. A section of the book contained "a detailed description of, and advertisement for, the school at Valparaiso."

"Of special note, to us, was the hand-written inscription at the front by a student who actually used the textbook at Dodge in 1916. In addition to the student's name, the following original poem was found on the flyleaf."

### **Epitaph of a Radio Ham**

No more to wander, no more to roam,  
A radio Ham lives beneath this stone.  
M. E. Packman mourns his loss:  
He never paid his blueprint cost!  
Acute indigestion doused his glim-  
The Spud House was too much for him.  
An A.C. generator lies at his feet;  
G. M. Dodge is hard to beat.  
He put a buzzer upon his breast,  
So even in Hell he'd have no rest.  
S.O.S.! Come down where I am  
Are the words sent to earth by  
THE RADIO HAM.  
(signed) A Ham

Leslie Simpson  
Valparaiso, Indiana  
January 5, 1916

The Clemans noted that M.E. Packman replaced Hoppough as Dean of the Wireless Department some time between 1912 and 1916.

## *To Young People Eager to Forge Ahead*

Are you in earnest about wanting to succeed?

If you are engaged at present in an unskilled occupation, such as factory hand, farmer, clerk, miner or school teacher, and you really desire to better yourself, we have a vital message for you.

### *Specialize in Wire or Wireless Telegraphy*

(Face page, Dodge's Telegraph, Railway Accounting and Radio (Wireless) Institute 1929 catalog)

The cover of this issue of the "Bulletin" is from a 1928-1929 "Dodge's Telegraph, Railway Accounting and Radio (Wireless) Institute". The second page of the catalog pictures the school's faculty. Of the nine pictured is G. M. Dodge, President, and M. E. Packman, Vice President (presenter of the 1915 paper to the IRE). The catalog is professionally formatted with many pictures and occasional color print. The content is intended to convince prospective students this is the school for me!

The forty-eight page catalog contains courses offered, schedules, equipment used, instructor profiles, and testimonials. (An undated class picture is shown consisting of 186 students, including eight women.)

M. E. Packman is a frequent reference in testimonials written by former students for the 1929 Catalog.

Here are several of many:

#### *On Board S. S. Englewood, Liverpool, England*

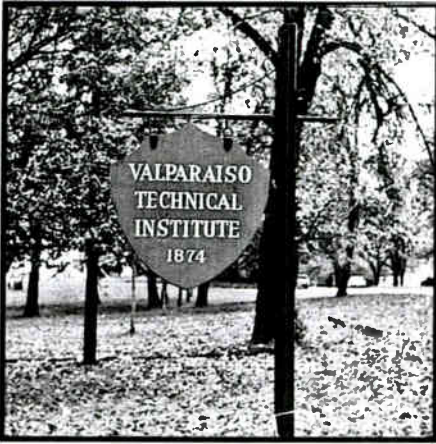
Dear Mr. Dodge, . . . "It is also through your effort and of Mr. Packman that I was located on this steamer as Senior Radio Operator at once . . ." Antero Mijares (school graduate from the Philippines)

#### *Station KMMJ, Nebraska*

Dear Mr. Dodge . . . "Especially do I recommend Mr. Packman, instructor of radio, for by his ability and his efficient manner in explaining details of radio theory. . . ." J. L. Johnson, March 1928.

#### *On board the S. S. Norwood*

Dear Sir: . . . "Mr. Packman knows wireless from start to finish, and he can make an operator out of any one that really desire to learn the wireless art." Karl E. Soderstrom, Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company.

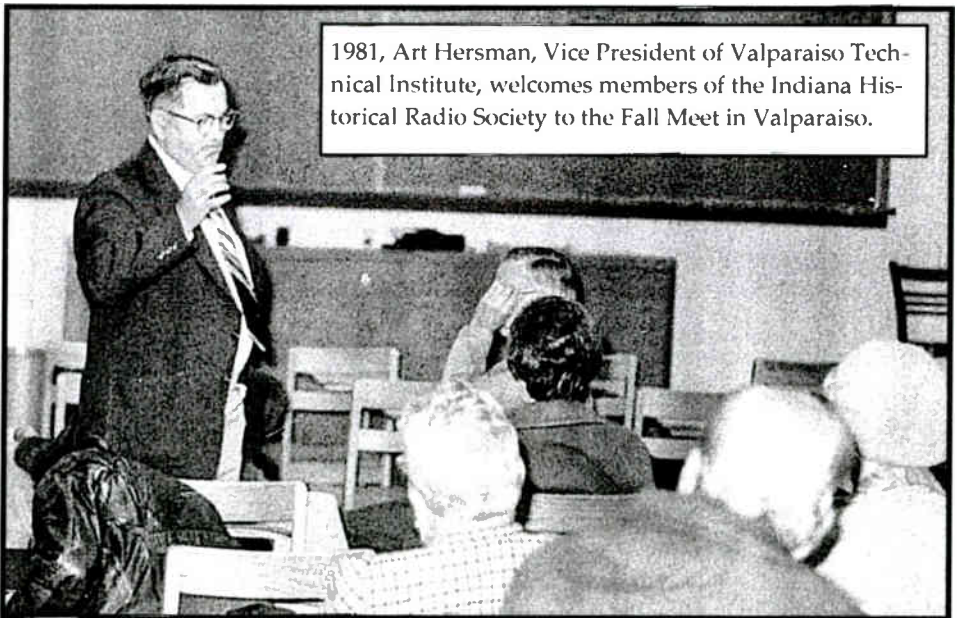


*A brief History of the school:*

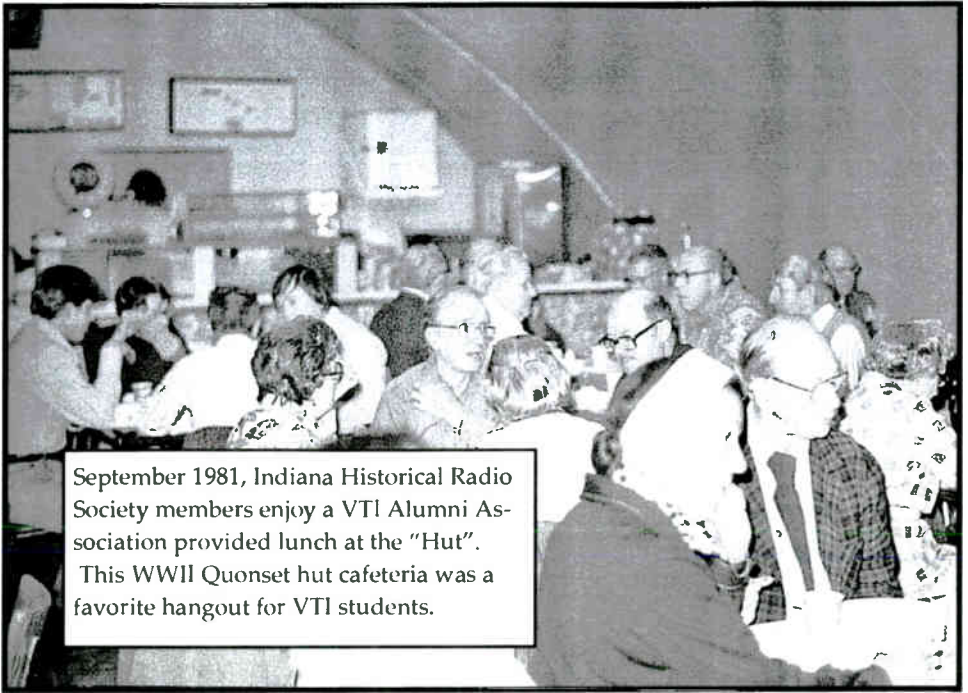
In 1868 George A. Dodge's Telegraphy School was established as a series of courses at the Valparaiso Male and Female College. Following a number of closings and re-opening of the school in the Valpa-

raiso area George A. Dodge officially opened a School of Telegraphy in 1874. In 1888 the school's name was recognized as "the Dodge School of Telegraphy". "The school grew to be the largest telegraph and railway instruction institution in the United States." Wireless instruction was added in 1909 giving the name "Dodge's Telegraph, Railway Accounting, and Radio (Wireless) Institute".

In 1939, Dr. J. B. Hershman purchased the Dodge Institute. He changed the name to Valparaiso Technical Institute in 1944. Following WWII the student body consisted primarily of veterans attending school under the GI Bill. Dr. Hershman's sons took the leadership of the school in 1962 with







September 1981, Indiana Historical Radio Society members enjoy a VTI Alumni Association provided lunch at the "Hut". This WWII Quonset hut cafeteria was a favorite hangout for VTI students.

Ed Hershman as President and Art Hershman as Vice President.

During the 1980's, Art Hershman, his wife Jorja, and the Valpo Tech Alumni Association hosted the Indiana Historical Radio Society Fall meeting for most of the decade.

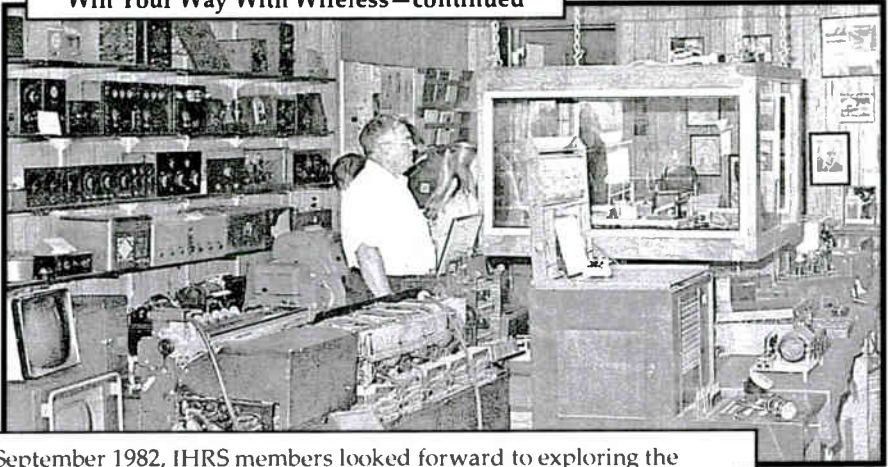
IHRS members attending the radio meet enjoyed a number of activities. In addition to meeting with good company, and an active parking lot full of vintage radios for sale, the popular Wilbur H. Cummings Museum of Technology was open. And a highlight—members were treated to lunch in the "Hut", compliments of the Alumni Association.

Sadly, in September of 1988 Mrs. Hershman passed away. The final IHRS meet at Valpo Tech was in September of 1989.

The Valparaiso Technical Institute officially closed in 1991. Since then, the VTI Alumni Association has been actively recording the history and preserving the artifacts of the school.

An excellent history of the school, "Dodges Institute to Valpo Tech, 1873 – 1991" was written by a 1966 graduate, Leland L. Hite. The history, written in 2015, can be located at the Alumni Association website, <https://www.sites.google.com/site/valparaisotechnicalinstitute/>.

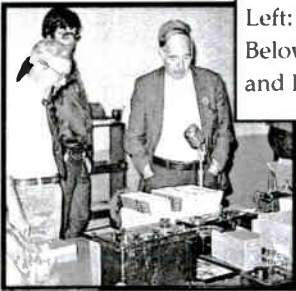
## Win Your Way With Wireless—continued



September 1982, IHRS members looked forward to exploring the Wilbur H. Cummings Museum of Technology at VTI. The Museum held artifacts of very early telegraph and wireless telegraphy equipment, rare radio receiving sets, and vintage computers. Wilbur Cummings, pictured to the right, was identified in the 1929 catalog as an Instructor in the Radio Department. A graduate of the Dodge Radio School, Mr. Cummings had experience as a commercial radio operator and as a Physics Instructor at Culver Military Academy.



Left: 1981, Don Johnston and Lionel Haid at a sale table.  
Below: 1982, Marshall Howenstein, Frank Heathcote, Jim Fred, and Bob Shuck lead the September IHRS meeting at VTI.



References: for "Win Your Way . . ." Proceedings of the Institute of Radio Engineers, volume 3, 1915. Pages 311-341

Win Your Way With Wire of Wireless, 1929 Dodge's Telegraph, Railway Accounting and Radio (Wireless) Institute.

Wikipedia – Dodge School of Technology Timeline.

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1991, Hite, Leland L, 2015, VTI Alumni Association Web Site

The Telegraph Instructor, G. M. Dodge, 1911, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, Valparaiso, Indiana

Valparaiso Technical Institute General Catalogs, 1952-1953 and 1953-1954

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*Fred Prohl – December 2017*



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The INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Annual membership dues of \$15.00 includes the quarterly IHRS "BULLETIN." Radio-Ads are free to all members. Please include an S.A.S.E. when requesting information. Send applications for membership and renewals to Don Yost, our treasurer as noted above.

### **The BULLETIN**

**A publication of the Indiana Historical Radio Society  
 Forty-six years of documenting early radio.**

